Vol. IX. Numb. 34.

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Letter from Salop *to the Earl of* Bradford, *and the Earl of* Sunderland's *Answer. The Addresses of the Faction not the Sense of the Nation: The True Import of them. More Queries to the University of* Oxon, *and other High-Church Addressers.*

From Wednesday, May 10, to Saturday, May 13. 1710.

Countrym. YOU see the Faction go on still with their Seditious Addresses, Master. and multiply them upon us: Pray give me your Opinion of the Matter; for the Party boast of them as a Demonstration that the Majority of the Nation is on their Side, so that they make no Doubt of carrying their Point.

Obs. The Faction has always been very sanguine in their Expectations, *Roger*; but the Event has hitherto shew'd that their Hopes, like those of the Hypocrites, have constantly perished. Their Addresses are no Manner of Proof that the Majority of the Nation is on their Side; for we have no Reason to doubt that they are most, if not all, procur'd the same Way as the Party in the County of *Salop* endeavour'd to procure theirs, which at last is dwindled into a Silly Address from the Town of *Ludlow*. It appears by a Letter from Ten Gentlemen to the Right Honourable the Earl of *Bradford*, Lord Lieutenant of that County, that the Rebellious and Tumultuous Mob endeavour'd to procure an Address from the Grand Jury there; but failing in that, the Faction, to shew that their Works were those of Darkness, sent their Address about to the Publick Houses of the Town about Ten a Clock at Night to procure Hands to it in a Clandestine and Unusual Manner; so that it can by no Means express the Sense of the Town, much less that of the County; for as it appears by that Letter, the Majority of the Gentlemen of the Grand Jury oppos'd that Address as promoted by Persons concern'd in Rebellious Tumults, headed by one *Lewde*, a Nonjurant, and intended as a Publick Reflection on the late Proceedings of Parliament against Dr. *Henry Sacheverell*, to abet and justifie the Dangerous Tenets vented by that Person, so highly to the Dishonour of Her Majesty's Government and Administration, and which have receiv'd the Just Condemnation of both Houses of Parliament. This is a Plain and Evident Proof, *Roger*, that those Addresses are not the Sense of the Nation, since the Principles laid down in them have been so solemnly condemn'd by our Representatives. Besides, you see by the Letter from the Right Honourable the Earl of *Sunderland* to the Earl of *Bradford*, that the Subject of that Address, so clandestinely procur'd, was very unacceptable to Her Majesty. who express'd her Dislike of those Seditious and Riotous Proceedings promoted by Papists, Nonjurants, and other Persons disaffected to the Govenment; therefore Her Majesty commanded the Earl of *Bradford* to let the Gentlemen, who wrote the Letter, and sent him the Papers, know how graciously she accepted this Seasonable Mark of their Loyalty and Zeal for Her Person and Government, and desir'd they would continue to suppress such Practices, by which the Publick Peace is broken, and which tend to nothing less than the Total Subversion of our present Happy Constitution; therefore Her Majesty express'd Her Pleasure, that the Offenders should be prosecuted with the utmost Severity of Law.

Countrym. I thank you, Master, for your Observations; you have sufficiently prov'd that these Addresses are not the Sense of the Nation, since the Subject Matter of 'em has been condemn'd by the Commons of *Great Britain*, who truly represent the People, by the Lords, who are Her Majesty's Born Counsellors, and our Standing Senate, and by Her Majesty Herself, who is our Lawful Sovereign and Head. But is not this a strange Piece of Assurance in the Faction to teaze Her Majesty with such Addresses, the Subject of which She has declar'd by Her most Gracious Speech from the Throne, and by the Letter of Her Minister, to be so unacceptable to Her; especially since Her Majesty so publickly declar'd by Her said Speech, That the Proceedings against Dr. *Sacheverell* on that account *were Necessary*. and since as an evident Mark of Her Approbation of that Prosecution Her Majesty has been Graciously pleas'd to advance One of the Managers against the Doctor to be Lord Chief Justice of *England*, and has advanc'd another to be a Judge with his Lordship on the same Bench? Besides, the Fact on had Notice by Mr. Baron *Lovell*'s Charge to the Grand Jury for the County of *Devon* the Fifth of *April* last, That Her Majesty has taken an unalterable Resolution to prefer none to any Dignity in Church or State which are in Her Donation, but such as are Conspicuous for Virtue, Morality, and Temper; and that She will Countenance none but Men of those Principles. Mr. Baron added, That when the Judges set out from *Lindon*, they were Charg'd by Her Majesty to recommend Peace, and to observe the Transactions in the Country. Is it not strange then that the Faction should notwithstanding all this go on with their Seditious and Treasonable Addresses, to assert those Principles which have been so solemnly condemn'd by Her Majesty and the Parliament, and are expressly contrary to the Act that absolves us from our Allegiance to any King or Queen that shall turn Papist, or marry a Papist, which, as the Lord Bishop of *Sarum* does justly observe in his Speech formerly mention'd, has for ever put an End to that Doctrine of the Unlawfulness of resisting Princes on any Pretence whatever.

Obs. The Faction is under a Judicial Infatuation, *Roger*, and seem to be left by Providence to fall into such Practices as must at last make them obnoxious to the Government, and hateful to the People of *Great Britain*, who have in all Ages expressed their utmost Abhorrence of such Principles as surrender their Lives, Fortunes, and Religion, to the Arbitrary Will of a Prince. 'Tis true, the Faction palliate this under the Exploded

ploded Notion of Paſſive-Obedience, and falſely aſſert it to be the Doctrine of the Church; but allowing it for Argument's Sake to be ſo, they have by their Fury ſet the Church and State together by the Ears, ſo that the Controverſie muſt now be, whether that Doctrine be true, or the Act eſtabliſhing the Declaration of Right, and that which abſolves us from Allegiance to a King or Queen that turns Papiſt, or marries a Papiſt, be null and void; by which they have brought Matters to this Criſis, that either the State muſt condemn that Pretended Doctrine of the Church, or ſuffer Her Majeſty's Title, the *Hannover* Succeſſion, and our whole Conſtitution, to be ſubverted, and become precarious, ſo that the Legiſlature ſeems to be under a Neceſſity either to make the Aſſerting of that Doctrine, as the Faction explain it, penal by a Poſitive Law, or to revoke thoſe Acts which are contrary to it, and at once to give up the Power and Priviledges of Parliaments. Nay, this is not all; for if the Doctrine be true, the Church muſt put Sackcloth on her Loins, and Aſhes on her Head, to bewail her Apoſtacy for aſſerting the contrary in her Office for the Fifth of *November*, ſhe muſt raze out that, with all her Forms of Prayer and Thankſgiving for the Succeſs of the late King *William* and *Mary* againſt the late King *James*, whoſe Throne and Scepter they aſſum'd, whom they defeated at the *Boyne*, and forc'd once more from his Dominions when he came to repoſſeſs himſelf of his Divine, Indefeaſible, and Hereditary, Right: The Church muſt do the like by all the Prayers and Thankſgivings ſhe has made for Her Majeſty's Glorious Succeſs, and Her Majeſty and the Parliament muſt humble themſelves in the ſame Manner; Her Majeſty muſt cancel Her Declaration of War againſt the *French* King for ſetting up the Pretender as King of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*; the Queen and Parliament muſt repeal the Act which attaints him, ratifie the Proofs of his Legitimacy lodg'd in the High Court of Chancery, make void all the Acts eſtabliſhing the Succeſſion as inconſiſtent with the Hereditary Right, declare their Publick Repentance for the Injuſtice they have done him, ſend a Solemn Deputation to invite him over to his Throne, and put their Neck in his Mercy. Theſe, *Roger*, I will prove to be the Natural Conſequences of the Principles which the Faction aſſert in their Addreſſes, and particularly in thoſe from the Univerſity of *Oxon*, and the Town of St. *Albans*.

Countrym. I am ſatisfied you may eaſily do that. Maſter; in the mean Time I would willingly ask the Univerſity of *Oxon* theſe few Queſtions more; 1. How we ſhall know when they are in the Right, and at what Time to believe em? For if their Decree of 1683 was Juſt, they were in the Wrong to invite the Prince of *Orange* to *Oxon*, and promiſe to declare for him; and if that Invitation and Promiſe, and their Signing the Aſſociation, was right, they were wrong in 1683, as well as they are now, when they reaſſert that Doctrine which the Houſe of Lords condemn'd to be burnt by the Hand of the Hangman. 3. I would ask them what Aſſurance they can give us that they will ſtand better to their Addreſs of 1710 than to their forementioned Decree? And whether thoſe who trifled and prevaricated with the Father can be truſted by the Daughter? Or, what New Art they have found to reconcile Contradictions.

Obſ. Your Queſtions are more eaſily propos'd than they will be anſwer'd, *Roger*; at the ſame Time I would likewiſe ask our Pretended Churchmen, who alledge this to be the Doctrine of the Church, 1. How we ſhall know when the Church is in the Right? For if that Doctrine be true, they were in the Wrong to aſſiſt Queen *Elizabeth* by Subſidies to ſupport the *Scots*, the *Dutch*, and the *French*, againſt their Reſpective Sovereigns, and much more to plead for putting to Death *Mary*, Queen of *Scots*, who was an Independant Sovereign, next Heireſs to the Crown of *England*, and the Firſt Sovereign in the latter Ages, at leaſt, that ever was executed by Publick Juſtice. 2. Whether, if this Doctrine be true, they don't damn King *James* I. and King *Charles* I. with *Laud*, and the Church of that Time, who approv'd their aſſiſting the *German* and *French* Proteſtants againſt the Emperor and the *French* King? 3. Whether they don't condemn *Athanaſius*, the Author of their Creed, who approv'd what the Biſhop of *Cagliari* wrote to the Emporer *Conſtantius*, viz. *That he deſerv'd to be put to Death for countenancing Idolatry?* 4. How they can allow the Apocrypha to be read in the Church, which approves the Reſiſtance made by the *Maccabees* to *Antiochus*, King of *Syria*, their Sovereign, and their Revolt from him? 5. Whether they don't damn the preſent Church of *England* for approving the Reſiſtance made to King *James* at the late Revolution; for taking the Oaths to King *William* and Queen *Mary*, and Her Preſent Majeſty, upon the Foot of the Declaration of Rights; for abjuring the Pretender, whom King *James* declar'd to be his Legitimate Son; and for ſwearing to the *Hannover* Succeſſion, which ſets aſide ſo many Princes and Princeſſes that are before them, according to Hereditary Right? 6. Whether they don't prevaricate with God when they pray for the Queen and the *Hannover* Succeſſion, whoſe Titles are inconſiſtent with thoſe Principles, as much as they did in their Prayers for the late King *James*, when they petition'd that God would ſtrengthen him in the True Religion, though they knew he profeſs'd one that the Church of *England* condemn'd for Idolatry? 7. Whether it be not unſufferable Impudence to charge the Revolution Party as joining with Papiſts to ſupport the Doctrine of Reſiſtance, when all the World knows, and the Queen and Parliament have declar'd it, that Papiſts and Nonjurors roſe in Rebellion againſt it, and in Defence of Paſſive Obedience, and of their Trumpeter of Sedition, Doctor *Sacheverell*.

Advertiſements.

*** Next Week will be publiſh'd, An Anſwer to the Addreſs of the Oxford Univerſity, as it is printed at London, Entituled, The Humble Addreſs of the Univerſity of Oxford, &c. Sold by B. Bragge, at the Raven in Pater-Noſter-Row.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

HER Majeſty's moſt Gracious Speech to Both Houſes of Parliament on the 5th of April, 1710. On the Top of the Speech is Her Majeſty's Picture, curiouſly Engraven, with proper Figures, repreſenting Religion, Wiſdom, Juſtice, and Moderation. The whole Printed on a Sheet of Fine Royal Paper, in a large Character, and Rul'd. Price 6 d. Neatly ſet off with Colours. Price 1 s. There is great Variety of the Queen's Speeches, Coloured Extraordinary, in Frames and Glaſſes. Sold by John King, Print and Mapſeller, at the Globe over-againſt the Church in the Poultry. Recommended to all Lovers of their Queen and Country. N. B. At the ſame Place there is a few left of King William's laſt Speech to his Parliament.

GEntlemen, who have any Thing to communicate to the Authors of this Paper, are deſir'd to direct it to be left with B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row, or Mr. Janeway, Poſt paid. Where Advertiſements are taken in, and theſe Papers are to be had Single, or in Volumes.

LONDON: Printed by R. Janeway, and Sold by *B. Bragge*, at the *Raven* in *Pater-Noſter-Row*. 1710.